

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3, 4, 8-19, and 49 are pending in the application. Claims 8-19 and 49 stand allowed. Claims 3 and 4 stand objected to, but would be allowed upon correction of an alleged informality.

In this paper, claims 3 and 4 are amended in response to the alleged informality.

Applicants believe the amendments made herein add no new matter. Any amendment to the claims which has been made in this Amendment and Response, and which has not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Objection to Claims 3 and 4

Claims 3 and 4 stand objected to but would be allowable if amended to overcome the objection. The objection is traversed.

The Examiner asserts that the language in claim 3, lines 1-2, and claim 4, line 1, reading “the reinforcing element” should read “the second reinforcing element.” Claim 3 depends from claim 49, and claim 4 depends from claim 3

Claim 3 has been amended to read “wherein at least one of the first and second reinforcing elements is made of a material having a higher strength-to-weight ratio than the material comprising at least one of the base and the reflective element.” Claim 49, in pertinent part, reads “a first reinforcing element associated with the base and vertically spaced from a second reinforcing element associated with the reflective element assembly.” Thus, there is proper antecedent basis for claim 3 to relate to either or both of the first and second reinforcing elements.

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Claim 4 has been amended to read “wherein the second reinforcing element surrounds at least a portion of the connection,” as suggested by the Examiner.

The amendments to claims 3 and 4 remove the grounds for the objection. Applicants request withdrawal of the objection and the allowance of claims 3 and 4.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, all claims remaining in the application are allowable. Notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

If there are any remaining issues which the Examiner believes may be resolved in an interview, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 3, 2008

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